

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

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(e) Lands included in any expression of interest or noncompetitive offer, except offers properly filed within the 2-year period provided under § 3110.1(b) of this title, submitted to the authorized officer.

(f) Lands selected by the authorized officer.

§ 3120.1-2 Requirements.

(a) Each proper BLM State office shall hold sales at least quarterly if lands are available for competitive leasing.

(b) Lease sales shall be conducted by a competitive oral bidding process.

(c) The national minimum acceptable bid shall be \$2 per acre or fraction thereof payable on the gross acreage, and shall not be prorated for any lands in which the United States owns a fractional interest.

§ 3120.1-3 Protests and appeals.

No action pursuant to the regulations in this subpart shall be suspended under § 4.21(a) of this title due to an appeal from a decision by the authorized officer to hold a lease sale. The authorized officer may suspend the offering of a specific parcel while considering a protest or appeal against its inclusion in a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale.

Only the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management may suspend a lease sale for good and just cause after reviewing the reason(s) for an appeal.

§ 3120.2 Lease terms.

§ 3120.2-1 Duration of lease.

Competitive leases shall be issued for a primary term of 10 years.

[58 FR 40754, July 30, 1993]

§ 3120.2-2 Dating of leases.

All competitive leases shall be considered issued when signed by the authorized officer. Competitive leases, except future interest leases issued under § 3120.7 of this title, shall be effective as of the first day of the month following the date the leases are signed on behalf of the United States. A lease may be made effective on the first day of the month within which it is issued if a written request is made prior to the date of signature of the authorized officer. Leases for future interest shall be

effective as of the date the mineral interests vest in the United States.

§ 3120.2-3 Lease size.

Lands shall be offered in leasing units of not more than 2,560 acres outside Alaska, or 5,760 acres within Alaska, which shall be as nearly compact in form as possible.

§ 3120.3 Nomination process.

The Director may elect to implement the provisions contained in §§ 3120.3-1 through 3120.3-7 of this title after review of any comments received during a period of not less than 30 days following publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of notice that implementation of those sections is being considered.

§ 3120.3-1 General.

The Director may elect to accept nominations requiring submission of the national minimum acceptable bid, as set forth in this section, as part of the competitive process required by the act, or elect to accept informal expressions of interest. A List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations may be posted in accordance with § 3120.4 of this title, and nominations in response to this list shall be made in accordance with instructions contained therein and on a form approved by the Director. Those parcels receiving nominations shall be included in a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale, unless the parcel is withdrawn by the Bureau.

§ 3120.3-2 Filing of a nomination for competitive leasing.

Nominations filed in response to a List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations and on a form approved by the Director shall:

(a) Include the nominator's name and personal or business address. The name of only one citizen, association or partnership, corporation or municipality shall appear as the nominator. All communications relating to leasing shall be sent to that name and address, which shall constitute the nominator's name and address of record:

(b) Be completed, signed in ink and filed in accordance with the instructions printed on the form and the regulations in this subpart. Execution of

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the nomination form shall constitute a legally binding offer to lease by the nominator, including all terms and conditions;

(c) Be filed within the filing period and in the BLM office specified in the List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations. A nomination shall be unacceptable and shall be returned with all moneys refunded if it has not been completed and timely filed in accordance with the instructions on the form or with the other requirements in this subpart; and

(d) Be accompanied by a remittance sufficient to cover the national minimum acceptable bid, the first year's rental per acre or fraction thereof, and the administrative fee as set forth in § 3120.5-2(b) of this title for each parcel nominated on the form.

[53 FR 22843, June 17, 1988; 53 FR 31958, Aug. 22, 1988]

§ 3120.3-3 Minimum bid and rental remittance.

Nominations filed in response to a List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations shall be accompanied by a single remittance. Failure to submit either a separate remittance with each form or an amount sufficient to cover all the parcels nominated on each form shall cause the entire filing to be deemed unacceptable with all moneys refunded.

§ 3120.3-4 Withdrawal of a nomination.

A nomination shall not be withdrawn, except by the Bureau for cause, in which case all moneys shall be refunded.

§ 3120.3-5 Parcels receiving nominations.

Parcels which receive nominations shall be included in a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale. The Notice shall indicate which parcels received multiple nominations in response to a List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations, or parcels which have been withdrawn by the Bureau.

§ 3120.3-6 Parcels not receiving nominations.

Lands included in the List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations which are not included in the Notice of

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Competitive Lease Sale because they were not nominated, unless they were withdrawn by the Bureau, shall be available for a 2-year period, for non-competitive leasing as specified in the List.

§ 3120.3-7 Refund.

The minimum bid, first year's rental and administrative fee shall be refunded to all nominators who are unsuccessful at the oral auction.

§ 3120.4 Notice of competitive lease sale.

§ 3120.4-1 General.

(a) The lands available for competitive lease sale under this subpart shall be described in a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale.

(b) The time, date, and place of the competitive lease sale shall be stated in the Notice.

(c) The notice shall include an identification of, and a copy of, stipulations applicable to each parcel.

§ 3120.4-2 Posting of notice.

At least 45 days prior to conducting a competitive auction, lands to be offered for competitive lease sale, as included in a List of Lands Available for Competitive Nominations or in a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale, shall be posted in the proper BLM office having jurisdiction over the lands as specified in § 1821.2-1(d) of this title, and shall be made available for posting to surface managing agencies having jurisdiction over any of the included lands.

§ 3120.5 Competitive sale.

§ 3120.5-1 Oral auction.

(a) Parcels shall be offered by oral bidding. The existence of a nomination accompanied by the national minimum acceptable bid shall be announced at the auction for the parcel.

(b) A winning bid shall be the highest oral bid by a qualified bidder, equal to or exceeding the national minimum acceptable bid. The decision of the auctioneer shall be final.

(c) Two or more nominations on the same parcel when the bids are equal to the national minimum acceptable bid, with no higher oral bid being made,